

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

16 May 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Juri RAUS - 15 May 1966

1. On Sunday, 15 May 1966, I met RAUS at the Cafe Capri and went with him to a nearby bar for a brief discussion over beer. The purpose of the meeting was twofold: to get from him some preliminary information on Colonel Alfons RERANE, and to calm him down after our telephone conversation of 13 May had indicated that RAUS was somewhat upset about the results of the 13 May court hearing.

2. I told RAUS we had come across his earlier memorandum on Colonel RERANE while reviewing the HEINE file material. One of our analysts had discovered that RERANE might be a good source of information on HEINE, and felt that his remarks in 1962 indicating his disbelief of HEINE's story were significant. I asked RAUS to tell me now what he remembered about RERANE's biography; he gave me a brief version orally and promised to write up a more detailed report from his own notes, books, etc. I emphasized to him that he must not tap his Estonian friends for this information, for security reasons.

3. RERANE was born around 1910 in Estonia. He was a Regular Army officer during the 1930's and then probably went into hiding when the Soviets came in 1940. After the German occupation he joined a German unit and saw service on the Eastern Front as either a Company or Battalion Commander. Somewhat later he was given command of an Estonian security battalion in the Wehrmacht, and engaged in anti-guerrilla activities on the Ilmen Front. He performed sufficiently well to earn a Knight's Cross. In 1943 his battalion was absorbed into the 20th Estonian Division (Waffen SS). He was in command of the 47th (?) Regiment of the 20th Division on the Narva Front. In 1944 his regiment was renamed the "Kanpfgruppe Rebane" and sent to the Tartu Front. The group finally retreated overland through Latvia, Lithuania, into Germany. Just prior to the end of the war the Germans attempted to reform the Estonian Division and RERANE again became a Regimental Commander. In 1945 when the German commander of the Division was killed on the Oder Front, RERANE served as Division Commander and probably held this post when the Division broke up in Czechoslovakia at the end of the war. RERANE settled in England after the war but RAUS was not sure how long he had remained there. He returned to Germany in the late 1950's and is now in the advertising business in Augsburg. In 1962 the LEL invited him to the United States for a lecture tour. He visited

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